

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) ~~A method to isolate macrophages from other cells in a biological sample, said method comprising a) contacting said sample with an agent that binds DC-SIGN and b) separating cells that bind to said agent from cells that do not bind to said agent~~ A method for enriching the percentage of macrophages in a sample of cells, the method comprising:

_____ contacting a sample of cells with an agent that binds to DC-SIGN, wherein said sample of cells is obtained from a person with rheumatoid arthritis; and

_____ separating cells that bind to said agent from cells that do not bind to said agent to thereby enrich the percentage of macrophages in said sample of cells.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said agent is (i) an antibody or (ii) an antigen-binding fragment of said antibody.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said antibody is ~~AZN-D1 or AZN-D2~~ (i) an antibody produced by hybridoma ECACC accession number 99040818, or (ii) an antibody produced by hybridoma ECACC accession number 99040819.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of ~~a mannose carbohydrate, a fucose carbohydrate, a plant lectin,~~ an antibiotic, a sugar, and a protein.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said sample of cells is a synovial tissue sample ~~is obtained from person with rheumatoid arthritis.~~

24. (Currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 19 wherein said ~~antibody~~ agent is attached to a solid support.

25. (Currently amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 19 wherein said macrophages express CD68.
26. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said synovial tissue sample is a synovial fluid sample.
27. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said synovial tissue sample is a synovial membrane sample.
28. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said separating comprises flow-cytometry or FACS.
29. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said sample is a blood sample.
30. (New) The method of claim 19 further comprising contacting said sample of cells with an antibody that binds to CD68, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.
31. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said sugar is selected from the group consisting of a mannose carbohydrate and a fucose carbohydrate.
32. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said protein is an HIV envelope glycoprotein gp120.
33. (New) A method for isolating macrophages that express DC-SIGN, the method comprising:
contacting a sample of cells with: (i) an agent that binds to DC-SIGN and (ii) an antibody that binds to CD68, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, wherein said sample of cells is a synovial tissue sample obtained from a person with rheumatoid arthritis; and
isolating cells that bind to (i) and (ii), to thereby isolate macrophages that express DC-SIGN.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said agent is i) an antibody or ii) an antigen-binding fragment of said antibody.
35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said agent is (i) an antibody produced by hybridoma ECACC accession number 99040818, or (ii) an antibody produced by hybridoma ECACC accession number 99040819.
36. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said isolating comprises flow-cytometry or FACS.
37. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said isolating comprises: (a) isolating cells that bind to said agent to obtain a population of cells that express DC-SIGN and (b) isolating from said population cells that bind to said antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.
38. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said isolating comprises: (c) isolating cells that bind to said antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof to obtain a population of cells that express CD68 and (d) isolating from said population cells that bind to said agent.
39. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said synovial tissue sample is a synovial fluid sample or a synovial membrane sample.
40. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic, a sugar, and a protein.
41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said sugar is a mannose carbohydrate or a fucose carbohydrate.